

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

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IN THIS ISSUE:

No. 326 - July 10, 1968

Election Results

Christian Center at Waseda

Sam H. Franklins Honored

Guest Missionary Sabourin PACIFIC SCHOOL

FCM Conference

Saitos to India

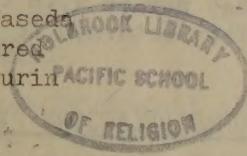
Sister Mary Alma

Japanese at Lambeth

Worship Studies

Pastoral Counselling--Special Report

Student Day of Prayer



FLASH: As we were about to go to press, Hal Shorrock burst in carrying a copy of the new, press-fresh 1968 Japan Christian Yearbook. Planned as a Meiji 100-year Commemorative, the volume has a wealth of reading and reference material. Directories of church offices and personnel, including missionaries, are a valuable service and evidence of growing ecumenicity. Co-editors of this first Catholic-Protestant effort are Father Joseph J. Spaë and Hallam C. Shorrock, Jr.

ELECTION RETURNS

The July 7 election of Upper House members to the Diet strengthened the Liberal Democrats' position but showed also a trend toward a multi-party system. Eight councillors known as Christians were re-elected. Defeated was Junzo Sasamori, long-time Liberal Democratic Diet member. Dr. Masatoshi Matsushita, former chancellor of St. Paul's University, was elected for the first time, from the Social Democratic Party. Re-elected were:

Liberal Democratic Party

Yuichi Kori, Episcopal Church

Socialist Party

Toshinaga Yamamoto, Church of Jesus Christ

Social Democratic Party

Isamu Koyanagi, Church of Christ in Japan

Sekikazu Nishimura, United Church of Christ

Hajime Tanaka, United Church of Christ

Shoichi Yokokawa, Church of Christ in Japan

Shigeo Murao, Episcopal Church

WASEDA HOSIEN TO BE CHRISTIAN CENTER SITE

The location of Waseda Hoshien (Student Center) will become the site of the new Christian Center building, an ecumenical expression of the Japanese churches. The NCC executive board, meeting June 14, approved plans to build at 550 Totsuka 1-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo. Now owned by the Kirisutokyō Shinsei Shadan, Inc., the land has been used for services to students in the Waseda University area, but the Shadan Board voted to sell an unused portion (660 tsubo, 218 square meters) at a reasonable price to encourage joint action among the churches.

The offices of The United Church, the Korean Christian Church, the NCC and the offices and studios of AVACC will be located in the new building. It is hoped that there will be a chapel and library as well as conference rooms.

UNION SEMINARY HONORS FRANKLINS

An unusual honor was conferred on an unusual couple on Saturday, July 6, when, in a special convocation, Tokyo Union Seminary made Dr. Sam H. Franklin emeritus professor and awarded an honorary D.D. degree to Mrs. Franklin. The occasion was one of a series of events recognizing the Franklins' unique personal and academic contributions to Japan.

On July 31, the Franklins will return to the United States after 21 years of teaching at Tokyo Union Seminary, where Dr. Franklin has been professor of social ethics and Mrs. Franklin English professor and counsellor. Their departure at this time is precipitated by Mrs. Franklin's health. Dr. Franklin will begin work immediately with the "Crisis in the Nation" program of the United Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

The Franklins came to Japan in 1929, spending five years in student work in Kyoto. During the Thirties they worked with the sharecroppers in the Mississippi Delta area of the U. S. They returned to Japan in 1947.

GUEST MISSIONARY TO LEAD PROBING OF HUMAN RELATIONS PROBLEMS

Fresh from the U. S. struggle to achieve a new level of human relationships, Dr. Clemence Sabourin is spending six weeks in Japan as "guest missionary," with the Japan Lutheran Church.

Dr. Sabourin, 59, pastor of Mount Zion Lutheran Church, New York City, has been chairman of the Human Relations Association. In Japan he will be involved in interviews, lectures and discussions, both with reference to the United States and to relationships with minority groups in Japan.

On Friday, July 19, at 7:00, Dr. Sabourin will speak on "Man, Society, and the Church," at the Tokyo Lutheran Center, 1-chome 2-32 Fujimi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo. The public is invited.

MISSIONARIES FELLOWSHIP ON INTENSIVE, INCLUSIVE, BASIS

The Fellowship of Christian Missionaries, a remarkably inclusive group of persons from many national and denominational backgrounds, will hold its annual conference near Lake Nojiri, at Kurohime Chalet, July 30-August 1.

The FCM, whose own history dates back 96 years, has chosen to focus on "Japan's Century of Change: A Christian Challenge," in recognition of the fact that 1968 is being celebrated as the 100th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration. The theme will be taken up with regard to economics, literature, ideas, and religious aspects.

Speakers include: Prof. Shin-ichi Ichimura, Osaka University, Prof. Giles Gunn, University of Chicago Divinity School; Dr. Delmar Brown, University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Robert Epp, Journal of Social and Political Ideas in Japan, and Francis F. Uytendaele, CICM, The Japan Missionary Bulletin. Dr. J. M. T. Winthers, who came to Japan as a missionary in 1898, will speak from his 70 years' experiences. Rev. Kenneth Dale, Lutheran Seminary, Tokyo, will deliver the opening sermon.

The Summer Conference is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Contact person is Karl Karpa, 844, 1-chome, Kawashimo, Kuruma, Iwakuni Shi, Yamaguchi Ken.

A CLOSED DOOR AND AN OPEN FUTURE

On the cloudy afternoon of July 5, Dr. Toshi Saito and his wife, Ema, left Tokyo International Airport for India, where they will serve a three-year term at a clinic of the Japan Leprosy Mission for Asia. Before leaving, Dr. Saito closed his own clinic, in the residential Setagaya-ku area of Tokyo, where he has been practicing for 23 years. Mrs. Saito has been teaching music at Tsurukawa Rural Institute.

The Saitos are members of the Shiba Church of The United Church of Christ. Although the Japan Leprosy Mission is a non-sectarian organization, widely supported by Japanese, a few Christian doctors and nurses, including its founder, Dr. Matsuki Miyazaki, are now at India in the clinic. It has long been the Saitos' dream to work where their services are most needed.

PERSPECTIVE ON RURAL ASIA

A group of Japanese Protestant church women were on hand at Haneda Airport June 29 to welcome a guest from abroad--a Roman Catholic nun from the Maryknoll Sisters. The guest was Sister Mary Alma, who has worked with the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Life of the NCCC-USA and has recently been traveling through East Asia. Her special interest is Christian women's contributions to the improvement of life in rural areas, especially in the nutrition of infants and children.

Since in Japan most of the work of this kind is done by the government or non-Christian groups, two United Church members, who work as local home advisors in the Saitama district, met with Sister Alma to tell about their work under the local government administration. Comparing the Japan situation with that in other countries, where church service projects have difficulty getting personnel, Sister Alma expressed interest in the fact that many Japanese junior college graduates take jobs as home advisors, even though the number of Christians among them is a minority.

JAPANESE REPRESENTATION AT LAMBETH

Representing Japan at the important Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Church in England July 25-August 25 will be four Bishops: Michael Yashiro, Kobe Diocese; David Goto, Tokyo Diocese; Mark Koike, Osaka Diocese; and Kenneth A. Viall, retired. "The Renewal of the Church" is the 1968 theme for the conference, which meets every ten years. Missionary Cyril Powles will also attend, as an observer and resource person.

WORSHIP STUDIES CONTINUE

Rev. Yoshinobu Kumazawa, Tokyo Union Seminary, will speak on "The Theological View of Worship" at the July 15 meeting of the Worship Study Group. The location is Higashi-Nakano Church, a 3-minute walk from the northwest exit of the Higashi-Nakano station of the Chuo line. The time is 7:00 p.m., the price, ¥100.

The September topic will be "Modern Worship Music," led by Megumi Hara, Aoyama Gakuin University. The program, making use of records, will be held at Higashi-Nakano Church, Sept. 16 at 7:00.

INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION HELD IN KYOTO

by K. Dale

The Kyoto Baptist Hospital was the setting for the week-long Fourth Japan Pastoral Counseling Clinical Training Institute (Nihon Bokkai Counseling Rinsho Seminar) held June 26-July 2. The Institute was attended by some 25 participants and ten leaders. Six missionaries attended and appreciated their English-speaking group sessions.

The Institute consisted mainly of daily interviews with hospital patients and written reports of these interviews, eight addresses by guest lecturers, and discussion of the interviews and lecture material and personal problems in daily small group sessions.

The lectures covered a variety of subjects related to pastoral care, such as "The Theological Meaning of Suffering" (Prof. Yuji Ishii, Doshisha), "Problems and Principles of Pastoral Dialog" (Prof. Kenneth Dale, Lutheran Theological College), "Schizophrenia" (Prof. Y. Kasahara, Kyoto University), "Counseling Present-Day Students" (Prof. Sanichi Kesen, Aoyama Gakuin University), and "Contrasts in Patterns of American and Japanese Family Structure" (Mr. Henry Shurr, Kobe Counseling Services for foreign Residents).

Prof. Kazuhiko Higuchi, Doshisha School of Theology, was the Director of the Institute. He was assisted by six supervisors and assistant supervisors who were in charge of the small groups and personal interviews. The Institute was sponsored by the Japan Institute of Pastoral Care (Nihon Bokkai Counseling Kyokai). This association, now four years old, is pioneering in the effort to promote the skills of pastoral care, especially counseling, throughout Japan. At present it consists of two active chapters, in the Kansai and Kanto areas.

During the present decade there has been a rapidly increasing interest on the part of the Christian church in Japan, as in Japanese society in general, in the field of human relations and counseling. This interest is evident in industries, public schools and universities, and in the community at large. Large industries are discovering that special training in how to handle people on an individual basis is essential for the smooth operation of their plants. Nissan Motors is a good example of this effort.

Universities have relatively well-developed programs of student counseling. There is an annual national conference of university counsellors. Movements in "sensitivity training" such as that sponsored by the Institute of Christian Education at St. Paul's University in Tokyo have proved popular. Counseling Centers can be found in Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto and other places where an effort is being made both to give individual help and to train social workers, nurses and ordinary "laymen" to develop sympathy and sensitivity toward the needs of their children, clients, students, etc.

Theological schools, including Tokyo Union, Japan Lutheran, and Doshisha, are strengthening their practical theology curriculum in the area of pastoral psychology and counseling, and in clinical pastoral education courses.

It is the hope and purpose of the Japan Institute of Pastoral Care to further develop the skills of pastoral counseling and care, through their local study programs and through the annual institutes for pastors and theological students.

JAPANESE STUDENTS OBSERVE UNIVERSAL DAY OF PRAYER

Christian students in the Tokyo area observed the Universal Day of Prayer for Students Sunday afternoon, June 23, at St. Trinity Episcopal Church. The speaker at this Protestant-Catholic service was Dr. Masao Matsumoto, a Catholic Law scholar.